ARTICLES
OF
HIGH MISDEMEANOUR

Humbly Offered and Presented to the Consideration of

His SACRED MAJESTY, and the Right Honourable the LORDS and others of his Majesties most Honourable Privy Council, against

Sir WILLIAM SCROGGS,

Knight, Lord Chief Justice of his Majesties Court of *Kings Bench*, *Westminster*, as followeth:

These Articles heard & answered before y Council Jan 21.

By Dr. *TITUS OATS*, &c.

I.

THat the said Lord Chief Justice, contrary to his Oath, the Duty of his place, and in contempt of the King, his Crown and Dignity, did set at liberty several persons accused upon Oath before him of High Treason, without their being Tryed, or otherwise Legally acquitted, as namely, the Lord *Brudnel*, &c.

II.

That at the Tryal of Sir *George Wakeman* and others, in the Sessions-House in the *Old Baily*, for High Treason, the said Lord Chief Justice (according to the Dignity of his place) managing the said Tryal, did Brow-beat and curb Doctor *Titus Oats* and Mr. *William Bedlowe*, two of the principal Witnesses for the King in that Case, and did encourage the Jury Impannelled and Sworn to trye the said Malefactors, against the said Witnesses, by his publick speaking slightly and abusively of them and their Evidence, and in the misrepeating and omitting most material parts of their Evidence; whereby the said parties indicted, were by the said Jury acquitted of the Fact charged then against them, and fully proved by the said Witnesses.

III.

That the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice, after the ſaid Tryal of the ſaid Sir *George Wakeman* and others, for High Treaſon as aforeſaid, in the further abuſe of the ſaid Doctor *Titus Oats* and Mr. *William Bedlowe*, and in their great diſparagement, ſpeaking of them, (ſaid) That before the Tryal of Sir *George Wakeman* (meaning the aforeſaid Tryal) the Witneſſes, (meaning the ſaid Doctor *Titus Oats* and Mr. *William Bedlowe*) were to be believed; But that at and after the ſaid Tryal they were not to be believed by him, nor ſhould not be believed by him; or to that very Effect.

IV.

That the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice, by colour of his Office hath taken upon him the power to Oppreſs by Impriſoning his Majeſties Loyal Subjects; namely, *Henry Care*, for the writing and cauſing to be printed divers Single-ſheet Books in Engliſh, called *The Packet of Advice from Rome*, for the Information and diſcovering of the Idolatries, Errours and Impieties of the *Romiſh Church*, to his Majeſties Loyal and Obedient Proteſtant Subjects, (in this Juncture of Affairs very uſefull) although the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice neither did nor could alledge or charge the ſaid *Care* with any thing contained in the ſaid Book, that was any way Criminal, or derogatory to his Majeſty, his Laws, Crown and Dignity, and refuſed to take very good Bail for him, though offered, and afterwards leſs Bail taken for him upon his *Habeas Corpus* in Court, but by the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice his means he was continued bound all the Term, and to his Good Behaviour, and at the end thereof untill the next Term, although no particular Crime was or could be proved againſt him, or laid to his charge.

V.

That to the great Oppreſſion of his Majeſties Loyal Subjects, he the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice, contrary to Law, and manifeſt breach of his Oath, hath without any reaſonable cauſe impriſoned a Feme Covert, and alſo divers other his Majeſties ſaid Subjects, and refuſed to take Bail though tendred, and the matter Bailable, as in the Caſe of Mrs. *Jane Curtis*, Mr. *Francis Smith*, &c.

VI.

That the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice is very much addicted to Swearing and Curſing in his common Diſcourſe, and to Drink to Excels, to the great diſparagement of the Dignity and Gravity of his ſaid place: He did in his common Diſcourſe at Dinner, at a Gentlemans houſe of Quality, publickly and openly uſe and utter many Oaths and Curſes, and there drank to Excels.

VII. That

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VII.

That *Charles Price* being accuſed upon Oath before him the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice, to be a *Popiſh Prieſt* and *Jeſuite*, and impriſoned for the ſame, and alſo divers other perſons accuſed upon Oath for High Treaſon, he the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice upon Bail delivered, without conſulting his Majeſties Councel or his Witneſſes, and againſt their conſents, divers of which ſaid perſons have not ſince appeared, but have forfeited their Recognizances, and the perſons not to be found.

VIII.

That the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice, to the great diſcouragement of his Majeſties Loyal Proteſtant Subjects, and to the manifeſt encouragement of the *Roman Catholick* Subjects, when Informations have been duely and legally given to him, of the Abode or Perſon of any Popiſh Prieſt or Jeſuite, he hath in a ſlighting and ſcornful manner refuſed the ſame, and bid the Informer go to Sir *William Waller* who buſied himſelf in ſuch matters mainly.

IX.

That at the Tryal of *Knox* and *Lane* at the Barr of the *Kings Bench* Court, for their Miſdemeanour in endeavouring to take away the Credit of Doctor *Titus Oats* and Mr. *William Bedlowe*, two of the principal Witneſſes for his Majeſty, in the proving of the Conſpiracy and Conſpirators againſt his Majeſties Life, the Government of the Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, the Deſtruction of the Proteſtants and the Proteſtant Religion, and introducing and ſettling of Popery there; although the Evidence was ſo full and clear againſt them, that the Jury found them Guilty without going from the Barr, yet the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice in further diſparagement and diſparaging of the Evidence of the ſaid Doctor *Titus Oats* and Mr. *William Bedlowe*, would not nor did not give any Charge to the ſaid Jury therein, but roſe up ſuddenly after the Evidence cloſed by the Councel, and left the ſaid Court abruptly, before the ſaid Jury had given in the ſame.

X

That the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice knowing that one *William Osborn* was in the Conſpiracy and contrivance with the ſaid *Knox* and *Lane* (in the laſt Article mentioned) to take away the Credit of the ſaid Doctor *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlow*; And knowing the ſaid Doctor *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlowe* to be materiall Witneſſes for his Majeſty in proving of the Conſpiracy and Conſpirators in the ſaid laſt Article mentioned; And had been ſo againſt ſeveral of the ſaid Conſpirators that had been tryed, and were to be ſo againſt ſeveral others of the ſaid Conſpirators that were impeached or accuſed for the ſaid high Treaſon, and were to be tryed for the ſame; and knowing the ſaid *William Osburn* had been detected before the Lords in Parliament aſſembled for his ſaid Conſpiracy and contrivance with the ſaid *Knox* and *Lane*, and that by his own Oath thereupon denying the fact in their ſaid Conſpiracy

and

and Contrivance to be true; Yet out of his Malice to the ſaid Doctor *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlowe*, and in as much as in him lay, to endeavour the diſparagement if not the ſuppreſſing of the further diſcovery of that helliſh and damnable Plot, he the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice without the knowledge conſent or approbation of his Majeſty or any of his Learned Council in the Law, or the ſaid Doctor *Titus Oates* or Mr. *William Bedlowe*, did voluntarily give the ſaid *William Osborn* liberty to make an *Affidavit* before him upon Oath of the truth of the ſaid Fact he had before as aforeſaid denyed upon his Oath, with intent that the ſame might be made uſe of againſt the ſaid Doctor *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlowe*, to their diſparagement, and the apparent prejudice of his Majeſty againſt the ſaid Conſpirators in the ſaid High Treaſon.

That the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice to manifeſt his ſlighting Opinion of the Evidence of the ſaid Doctor *Titus Oates* and Mr. *Bedlowe*, in the preſence of his Sacred Majeſty and the Right Honourable the Lords and others of his Majeſties moſt Honourable Privy Council, did dare to ſay, That he had thought Doctor *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlowe* alwayes had an Accuſation ready againſt any Body.

That at the laſt Aſſize holden at *Monmouth*, the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice in the preſence of ſeveral Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County, did ſay to Mr. *William Bedlowe*, that he did believe in his Conſcience that *Richard Langhorn* whom he condemned, died wrongfully, to the great diſparagement of his Majeſtyes Crown and Dignity, the Juſtice of the Court, the Jury and Evidence.

That the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice, contrary to the Dignity of his Place, did make Merchandize of the Tryals of certain Prieſts to be tryed in *Stafford-ſhire*, and took Twenty Guinnies in Earneſt, and then ſold the ſaid Tryals to other perſons, refuſing to return the ſaid Twenty Guinnies to thoſe from whom he received them: And furthermore, before the Tryal of Sir *George Wakeman*, he the ſaid Lord Chief Juſtice did bargain with two Book-ſellers for one hundred and fifty Guinnies for them to print the Tryals, and in caſe they would not lay down the Money before he went into the Court, he would not go into the Court, but would go into the Country: And if the ſaid Tryal by reaſon of its length could not be finiſhed in one day, he would have one hundred Guinnies more; or words to that very Effect.

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